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JAMES M. Le BLANC
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State of Louisiana

Department of Public Safety and Corrections

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Fugitive Keana Barnes Caught in Los Angeles

(Baton Rouge) Keana Barnes, the 33-year-old offender who escaped from the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women in the early morning hours of January 1, 2013, has been apprehended and is in the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Barnes is expected to be in federal court on Wednesday. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections is in contact with California officials and will initiate the extradition process if necessary.

According to law enforcement authorities, a LAPD officer was giving Barnes a ticket on Monday for loitering when she apparently gave police a fake name. Suspicious, officers took her into custody and transported her to the police department. On the way, Barnes confessed her true identity and advised the officers that she was an escapee from Louisiana. Officers confirmed her identity through fingerprints.

DPS&C Secretary Jimmy Le Blanc would like to thank all local, state and federal law enforcement authorities for their valuable assistance in search for and apprehension of Barnes, especially the U.S. Marshals Service and the Los Angeles Police Department. Le Blanc also thanks the media for keeping the public informed in the days and weeks after the escape.

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